NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN, MAY 1935

By W. F. McDONALD

Atmospheric pressure.—Average pressure distribution over the North Pacific during May 1935 was nearly normal. Moderate low pressure was centered over the Aleutians (Dutch Harbor, 29.76 inches) and extended thence southwestward into the Philippine LOW (Manila, 29.78 inches). The Pacific HIGH was very persistent between the Hawaiian Islands and the American coast, and often extended northward over the Alaskan Peninsula, and at times joined with high-pressure areas over western Canada.

The lowest barometer reading reported by any ship was 28.88 inches, observed on the American steamship *President Jackson*, May 8th, near 49° N., 176° E.; but another fairly low reading was observed on the 29th, on the British steamship *Talthybius*, near 50° N., 165° W., where the pressure was 28.99 inches.

Highest pressures at sea were slightly above 30.60 inches, observed in the Gulf of Alaska, on the 7th and 8th.

TABLE 1.—*Averages, departures, and extremes of atmospheric pressure at sea level, North Pacific Ocean, May 1935, at selected stations*

Stations	Average pressure	Departure from normal	Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
	Inches	*Inch*	*Inches*		*Inches*	
Point Barrow	30.16	+0.07	30.86	9	29.78	31
Dutch Harbor	29.76	−.08	30.34	7	29.18	24
St. Paul	29.88	+.04	30.38	8	29.42	16
Kodiak	29.84	.00	30.46	8	29.50	12
Juneau	30.04	+.05	30.37	6	29.53	15
Tatoosh Island	30.13	+.12	30.46	3	29.56	16
San Francisco	29.96	−.03	30.12	3	29.79	27
Mazatlan	29.88	+.03	30.00	8	29.80	12, 18
Honolulu	30.06	+.01	30.14	12	29.92	19
Midway Island	30.09	+.04	30.22	3	29.84	9
Guam	29.84	−.04	29.92	5	29.76	18
Manila	29.78	+.01	29.86	29	29.70	17
Naha	29.81	−.01	30.02	1	29.68	18, 19
Chichishima	29.91	.00	30.04	3	29.76	20, 24
Nemuro	29.84	----------	30.40	12	29.06	1

NOTE.—Data based on 1 daily observation only, except those for Juneau, Tatoosh Island, San Francisco, and Honolulu, which are based on 2 observations. Departures are computed from best available normals related to time of observation.

Cyclones and gales.—A cyclonic disturbance of considerable intensity, that originated south of Japan in the closing days of April, moved from the Kuril Islands to the western Aleutians and Bering Sea, attended by gales of force 8 to 10 along the western part of the main trans-Pacific steamship routes, May 1 to 8. The American steamer *Golden Dragon* on the 2d–3d encountered a whole gale (force 10) in connection with this disturbance, near 43° N., 155° E.; this is the highest wind so far reported from the North Pacific during May.

Slow-moving and usually moderate cyclonic conditions continued to dominate the Aleutian region and the Asiatic coast during most of the remainder of the month. The low pressure areas infrequently displayed storm intensity, and in only two cases (in which cyclonic areas deepened over the Aleutians and Gulf of Alaska during the last decade of the month) were scattered gale conditions encountered on the northern ship lanes.

The month as a whole was characterized by unusually quiet weather over the main areas of the North Pacific Ocean. No gales have been reported from latitudes below the 30th parallel; very few between 30° and 40° N., and only a moderate number from higher latitudes.

Fog.—Reports at hand show fog on 3 to 6 days in most of the 5°-squares along the northern ship lanes, with greatest prevalence between the 1st and 12th, and from the 19th to 25th.

Only a few days, all prior to the 12th, had fog along the American coast; during this first part of the month fog also occurred in a few uncommon positions below the 30th parallel—on the 9th along the China coast near Formosa, and on the 12th near Midway Island.

An interesting account of encounter with patches of dense low fog on the 9th, near 52° N., 170° W., is given by Second Officer J. A. Macdonnel, of the Canadian steamer *City of Vancouver*, who reports as follows, regarding conditions during more than 24 hours of run: "Ship encountered successive banks of vapor ranging from moderate to thick fog in density. The average patch took about one-half hour to traverse and the patches were interlaced with perfectly clear narrow lanes, often straight and revealing the horizon at either end. Several patches of 3 hours duration were experienced. Average depth of fog about 80 feet; blue sky overhead generally."

SEA-SURFACE TEMPERATURE SUMMARY FOR THE NORTH CENTRAL GULF OF MEXICO, 1912–33

By GILES SLOCUM

The monthly mean sea-surface temperatures in a representative area within the northeastern quadrant of the Gulf of Mexico are given in the accompanying table.

The period covered is from January 1912 to December 1933, inclusive. The observations of sea-surface temperature for the years 1917, 1918, and 1919 are few in number and the average temperatures for this period are therefore given only to whole degrees; the mean temperatures for the balance of the 22-year period are given to tenths of a degree.

The area in which these temperature observations were taken embraces six 1° squares, namely 86° W. to 89° W., and from 26° N. to 28° N.

Monthly and annual sea-surface temperatures in the north central Gulf of Mexico, 1912 to 1933, inclusive

Year[1]	Total number of observations for the year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Annual[2]
1912	534	73.3	71.7	74.6	75.4	79.9	81.2	82.6	83.9	82.7	81.1	75.7	73.3	78.0
1913	407	74.2	74.7	74.7	75.5	76.5	79.4	82.0	82.5	81.6	80.2	76.3	75.7	77.8
1914	322	73.6	73.6	72.4	74.2	76.7	81.0	84.2	84.0	83.1	80.5	75.4	73.0	77.6
1915	238	70.5	68.5	68.0	69.7	77.6	80.5	84.6	84.5	82.7	78.9	78.3	75.2	76.6
1916	196	74.8	74.4	74.5	74.7	77.7	81.6	82.2	83.2	82.8	81.3	76.2	73.8	78.1
1917	103	73	72	75	75	77	81	83	82	81	77	78	72	77.3
1918	40	70	74	74	76	78	81	79	84	84	82	77	74	77.7
1919	136	75	74	73	76	77	81	82	85	83	82	78	74	78.2
1920	432	75.2	74.1	74.9	77.7	79.0	80.9	82.4	82.3	82.8	79.2	74.8	71.5	77.9
1921	571	72.2	71.5	75.6	75.2	76.9	81.2	82.2	83.1	83.0	81.4	78.5	76.2	78.1
1922	739	74.5	73.7	73.9	75.9	79.0	81.0	82.9	83.7	83.0	80.2	78.3	75.8	78.5
1923	769	72.6	72.0	72.4	74.5	77.4	80.1	81.5	82.6	82.9	79.5	74.4	73.2	76.9
1924	912	71.2	69.4	69.2	73.1	77.6	82.8	84.4	85.0	83.8	80.0	76.6	75.5	77.4
1925	1,038	74.2	72.2	74.9	75.2	77.2	80.5	82.7	84.1	83.4	82.1	78.9	74.8	78.4
1926	1,259	73.4	72.5	73.9	75.2	77.3	81.6	83.5	83.8	83.3	82.1	77.9	77.1	78.5
1927	1,469	74.5	75.0	73.3	74.0	78.4	81.2	83.6	84.4	83.6	81.7	77.7	73.9	78.4
1928	1,383	72.6	73.1	74.9	76.0	77.7	80.8	82.6	84.2	83.1	81.6	77.5	75.3	78.3
1929	1,321	74.0	74.2	75.3	77.2	78.3	81.0	81.8	83.0	82.2	78.9	76.5	72.3	77.9
1930	1,195	70.4	70.5	69.6	72.3	77.3	79.5	82.8	83.9	83.0	79.5	75.7	74.4	76.6
1931	1,168	72.7	70.7	70.1	73.1	77.5	81.0	83.8	83.7	83.8	80.9	77.5	78.1	77.7
1932	1,052	76.2	75.3	72.5	74.4	77.6	81.4	84.0	84.2	82.7	80.3	76.5	74.4	78.3
1933	1,098	74.5	75.0	74.7	75.8	79.0	81.4	82.6	83.6	83.0	80.8	78.0	76.3	78.7
Mean (1912–33)[2]	------	73.3	72.8	73.3	74.8	77.7	81.0	82.7	83.7	82.9	80.5	77.0	74.6	77.8

[1] Values for 1917 to 1919, inclusive, are given to whole degrees, instead of to tenths because of paucity of data.

[2] Computed with monthly values figured to 1 decimal place, and, therefore, not exact means of the figures given here.